



## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **Arizona's Fifteenth Annual Transition Conference**

#### ***Connecting for Success: Shared Expectations, Responsibilities, and Outcomes***

**August 24–26, 2015**

*Talking Stick Resort*

*Scottsdale, Arizona*

Arizona's Fifteenth Annual Transition Conference, *Connecting for Success: Shared Expectations, Responsibilities, and Outcomes*, invites the submission of proposals for breakout sessions. This year's conference is structured around three topical strands: 1) Connecting with Youth; 2) Connecting with Families; and 3) Connecting with Agency and Community Partners. This collaborative, cross-stakeholder event includes youth and young adults with disabilities, family members and caregivers, state agency staff, educators, service providers, and community members who share a commitment to the successful transition of students to adult life.

Proposal submissions are invited that address one of the three strands, include practical and replicable activities or strategies, and focus on strengths as they relate to:

- Best practices/evidence-based practices;
- Implementation strategies;
- Outcomes and/or products; and
- Tools to share that support replication.

Proposals will be chosen to create a balance of topics that will appeal to a variety of audiences.

#### **Topical Strand #1: Connecting with Youth**

Papers submitted for sessions under this topical strand should address innovative and promising practices that assure youth play a vital role in their transition from high school to adult life. Sessions should be interactive and provide attendees with practical descriptions of innovative programs, services, and supports that can be implemented by others to engage youth in all aspects of their transition from school to adult life. Session content should highlight process, evidence-based strategies, performance measures, and outcomes.

Sessions may include but are not limited to the following topics:

- Innovative transitioning programming for youth in secure care settings
- Transitioning youth from secure care settings back into the community
- Self-determination/self-advocacy skill building
- Student peer mentoring
- Career exploration

- Job skills development, including “soft skills”
- Volunteerism
- Dropout prevention
- Assistive technology/universal design for learning
- Career and technical education programs
- Arizona employment prospects and student training
- Supports or programming designed for unique needs or specific disability categories
- IEP (individualized education program) development
- Connecting youth to their community using natural supports
- Services or programs that support true community integration
- Curriculum development
- Peer mentoring
- Strength-based decision making
- Futures/Person-Centered Planning

## **Topic Strand #2: Connecting with Families**

Papers submitted for sessions under this topical strand should address the meaningful involvement of family members and other caregivers in transition planning with schools and community partners, as well as in the support of family members preparing for the adult life of their young adult. Sessions should provide an overview of practical methodologies, activities, tools, and resources relevant to a broad audience including family members/caregivers, educators, transition specialists, and community stakeholders across a wide range of settings.

Sessions may include but are not limited to the following topics:

- Recruitment and support of family members/caregivers for program and policy development
- Recruitment, training, and support of family members/caregivers as peer mentors and trainers
- Evaluating the impact of family/caregiver involvement
- Family and caregiver roles in transition planning
- Resources, services, and supports for families/caregivers and their family member after graduation
- Developing and using natural supports
- IEP (individualized education program) and ITP (individualized transition plan) development
- Family/caregiver leadership development and support
- Diversity of culture and language to improve access to information
- Impact of recent federal and state regulatory changes (CMS; WIOA; DOJ; ADE-specific guidance on transition planning)
- Information and resource-sharing opportunities
- Early family engagement

### Topical Strand #3: Connecting with Agency and Community Partners

Papers submitted for sessions under this topical strand should address the interactive roles of state and community entities involved in the mutual support of students and/or young adults preparing for adult life and their families/caregivers. Sessions should provide attendees with practical descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of the many stakeholders involved in preparing students and young adults for life after high school and how they interrelate. Sessions should describe statewide and/or local opportunities, services, and supports available as a result of working partnerships.

Sessions may include but are not limited to the following topics:

- Roles related to identifying and improving post-school outcomes
- Networking with employers
- Employer perspectives
- Developing and supporting local stakeholder collaborations
- Postsecondary education/training
- Collaborations that support students' transition from school to community-integrated employment
- Collaborative programs for youth in secure care settings
- Assistive technology/universal design for learning and working
- Vocational assessments and career exploration
- Job development, placement, and on-the-job support
- Employment prospects in Arizona and applicable student training
- Work-based programs
- Service learning
- Volunteerism and opportunities for service
- Apprenticeships
- State agency services and supports
- Transportation
- Health care transition
- Transition resources in the behavioral health system
- Benefits management
- Guardianship and other legal options
- Success stories—student, educator, provider, and/or employer perspectives

### Proposal Review Process

Proposals must identify the primary topical strand the session is intended to address. Sessions must incorporate strategies and interventions, involve active participation of the audience, include adequate time for reflection and sharing, and provide “takeaways” or handouts. **Your session description must be content specific, complete, clearly written, and accurately reflect the material to be presented to your audience. If your proposal is selected, the session description you submit will be used as is in the conference program.** Please plan the session for 75 minutes in length.

Arizona's Fifteenth Annual Transition Conference Planning Committee will review all submissions based on the following criteria:

1. The degree to which the proposal clearly addresses one of the three identified conference strands;
2. Clear identification of what the participants will know and be able to do as a result of their attendance at the session;
3. Relevance of session content to the intended audience;
4. The degree to which the proposal reflects evidence-based practice; and
5. The degree to which the proposal has practical application and demonstrated results for the intended audience.

### **Conference Registration Fee and Multiple Presenters**

One\* presenter per session can be exempt from paying the conference registration fee. If there is more than one presenter, registration fee payment will be required from each additional person. \*If an assistant is required to support a presenter, the conference registration fee will be waived for this individual.

*Applicants will be required to submit detailed information for the proposed presentation using the Google registration link provided below. Be prepared to provide the following:*

- Presenter Name(s)
- Address
- Phone
- E-mail
- Title
- School/Agency/Organization
- Home/Alternate Phone
- Home/Alternate E-mail
- Associated Website(s)
- Topical Strand #
- Target Audience(s): youth/young adult, family member/caregiver, state agency staff, educator, service provider, community member
- Target Audience Level of Knowledge: novice (new to transition), intermediate (assumes knowledge/experience) or advanced (in-depth knowledge/experience)
- Participant Outcomes
- Title of Session
- Description of Session (approximately 200 words)
- Equipment/Supports Needed for the Session
  - Room Format: primarily interactive, lecture-based, or both
  - Presenter Accommodations: special needs, table set-up, room preference, etc.
  - Easel
  - Microphones (note the number needed, including audience participation if applicable)
  - Flip Chart/Markers
  - Podium

## Proposal Submission Process

The deadline for submission of proposals is **11:59 p.m., February 13, 2015**. The submission process includes:

1. **Online** completion of the “Call for Papers” application at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/lmgycjb>

**AND**

2. **E-mailing of the** session title, presenter(s), and description (approximately 200 words) to:  
Jeannette Zemeida  
(602) 542-3855  
[Jeannette.Zemeida@azed.gov](mailto:Jeannette.Zemeida@azed.gov)

Notification of acceptance will be made no later than **May 2015**.

Please note: Arizona’s Fifteenth Annual Transition Conference Planning Committee reserves the right to edit session titles and descriptions to allow for accuracy, consistency, and clarity in all conference materials.